

St. Clair County Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
3835 NE Hwy 13  
Osceola, MO 64776

Phone: 417-646-8108 ext. 3

October  
2014



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# About Our District

## Board of Supervisors

**Terry Strobe, Area I  
Chairman**

**Richard (Dick) Stinnett, Area II  
Member**

**David Garver, Area III  
Vice Chairman**

**Tadd Barnett, Area IV**

**Saralee Jamieson, Univ. Mo Ext.  
Secretary**

## District Personnel

**Donna Hooper  
District Manager**  
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**Mark Brownlee  
District Technician**  
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**Margie Best  
District Clerk**  
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## NRCS Personnel

**Gorman Bennett  
District Conservationist**  
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**Chris Hoeme  
Soil Conservationist**  
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Soil Conservation Technician**  
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**ACES employee:**  
**Pam Cornelius**  
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## Cost-Share News

The district is now working on contracts for landowners with our present Fiscal Year funding. We have funds available for all of the practices we have offered in the past. As always, it is very important that cooperators contact us with their ideas for possible cost-share practices they are considering implementing for the remainder of the year which runs through June 2015. We are contacting cooperators who remain on our request list to determine if they are interested in following up on past requests, and we should have funding for most of our practices, but we need to hear from you! Whether you have ever participated in our cost-share program or not, we can't help you if you don't ask. Please call the office to determine eligibility and start the process. This funding is available to all St. Clair County landowners when requirements are met, so please contact the office as soon as possible so we can utilize this soils & parks funding in St. Clair County.

## Cover Crop Practice - Pilot

As we reported in the July newsletter, all counties in the state are now able to offer the cover crop practice as a pilot program. The purpose of a pilot project is for testing, development and implementation of new cost-share practices for future soil and water conservation district resource needs. The Soil and Water Conservation Program commission has expanded the pilot project for the entire state of Mo. And planning to offer it in a much broader range to each SWCD as a fully funded practice. The practice will provide \$30.00 per acre incentive for operators implementing cover crops under a required no-till system, with a 20 acre maximum per operator. There will be an open comment period from December 1, 2014 through May 1, 2015 for suggested changes to the practice before going state wide as a regular cost-share practice. With this new incentive practice, the commission believes that it will help reduce soil erosion, improving water quality and soil health. The pilot practice is only for crop land. The district will prioritize the applications using a ranking sheet for cost-share funding. This practice will have to meet NRCS specifications as with all other practices we offer. If you are interested in this cover crop practice, please call the office at 417-646-8108 ext. 3 and district staff will begin the planning and ranking process.

*" A prosperous and enduring  
agriculture depends on an  
adequate supply of produc-  
tive land, properly used and  
so protected from erosion  
that it will remain perma-  
nently productive. "*

*Hugh Hammond Bennett, Soil  
Conservation Service - founder*

## *Controlling Thistles and Other Noxious Plants with Pest-Management Cost-Share Practice*

Controlling thistles and other noxious plants is the responsibility of all landowners in MO. The Revised Statutes of Mo section 263.190 states, "It shall be the duty of every owner of lands in this state to control all Canada, musk or scotch thistles growing thereon so often in each and every year as shall be sufficient to prevent said thistles from going to seed". The district now has funding for a practice that is fairly new to us to help landowners address this serious issue. It is available for hay and pasture land and the purpose of the practice is to minimize improper use of pesticides. The landowner or operator works with our technicians to develop a pest management plan according to the NRCS specifications eligibility. This practice is different than our other district cost-share practices in that, the plan and contract has to be completed and signed between January 1st and April 15th, once the spraying practice is completed according to contract specifications, the district technician checks the practice and payments are made after October 31st. Spraying of thistles, buck brush, woody sprouts etc. can be eligible if all requirements are met. If anyone is interested in applying for this cost-share practice, we presently have funding, but as usual, we have an allotment for each year so if we allocate all of our funds, we will put your name on a list for next years funding and serve those on the list in order of their request for funds. The cost-share amount a landowner (operator) can receive is \$10.00 an acre with a lifetime maximum per landowner (operator) of \$5,000.00. Spraying of fence rows is not eligible for payment. The farm operator (person who is farming the land and listed as the operator with FSA) can receive the contract payment if authorized by the landowner. Controlling these invasive/noxious plants is not only the law, but just makes sense for each landowners forage quality as well as neighbors. If you are interested in applying for this practice you need to work with us this fall and winter to determine eligibility and funding for the spraying season next spring and summer. Please contact the district staff as soon as possible for planning to begin.



*If interested in the pest management practice for spraying, you should contact the district and have your name put on the list. We will begin working with cooperators this fall and winter so that contracts can be completed after January 1, 2015.*

## *No-Till Drill Rental*

The SWCD still has 2 Great Plains 10 ft. No-till drills available for rent. Both drills are capable of planting most seeds, and one of the drill's is also capable of warm season grass seeding's. The rental fee for both drills is \$7.00 an acre for use in St. Clair county. The drills can be used by landowners in adjoining counties for \$8.50 an acre, only if they are not being used by our St. Clair county landowner's and are sitting idle. We ask that the drills be used only on fields that are capable of being mowed for hay or crop ground, as rocky ground and stobs will damage the drills beyond normal wear and tear and the user will be expected to pay for the damages.

*The SWCD has a new board member. Tadd Barnett from the Roscoe area, has been appointed to replace the open board of supervisors position vacated by Susan Abbott. Tadd has experience with grazing systems and various cost-share practices and will be an asset to the district board of supervisors.*

## *Visit Us On The Web*

*To visit our SWCD website*

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/stclair/index.html>

*You Might Also Find These Websites Useful:*

*DNR Soil & Water Conservation Program: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/> This website has a lot of information about the Soil and Water Program in general and also cost-share practice brochures, information about the soils and parks tax, Soil and Water Commission meetings etc.*

*NRCS: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mo/home/>*

